

**EXAMINER'S STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE**

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***Continued Examination Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114***

[1] A request for continued examination under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on Dec. 10, 2009 has been entered.

***Amendments & Claim Status***

[2] This Examiner's *Statement of Reasons for Allowance* is responsive to the Request for Continued Examination and Information Disclosure Statement received Dec. 10, 2009. Claims 1-3, 5, 7-15, 18-21, 31-35, 38-45, 47, and 49-54 remain pending.

***Information Disclosure Statement***

[3] The information disclosure statement filed Dec. 10, 2009 complies with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.97, 1.98 and M.P.E.P. § 609. It has been placed in the application file, and the information referred to therein has been considered as to the merits.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

[4] Claims 1-3, 5, 7-15, 18-21, 31-35, 38-45, 47, and 49-54 allowed.

**Reasons for Allowance**

[5] The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Regarding Claims 1, 13, and 43, see Office Action at p. 7, Apr. 15, 2009 (pertaining to allowability of claims 6, 17, and 48). Claims 2-3, 5, 7-12, 14-15, 18-21, 44-45, 47, and 49-54 allowable by dependency.

Regarding Claim 34, see Office Action at p. 7, Apr. 15, 2009 (pertaining to allowability of claim 34). Claims 35 and 38-42 allowable by dependency.

Regarding Claim 31, while the prior art teaches such a processor, first deblocking filter, and second deblocking filter, the prior art of record does not teach obtaining one or more difference values of one or more edge pixels of the two neighboring blocks, if neither of the two neighboring blocks is subdivided; comparing the one or more difference values to a second threshold, and selecting the second deblocking filter based on the comparison. Claims 32-33 allowable by dependency

[6] Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

### *Conclusion*

[7] Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to DAVID P. RASHID whose telephone number is (571)270-1578 and fax number (571)270-2578. The examiner can normally be reached Monday - Friday 7:30 - 17:00 ET.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Bhavesh Mehta can be reached on (571) 272-7453. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR

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system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/David P. Rashid/

Examiner, Art Unit 2624

/Bhavesh M Mehta/

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Art Unit 26244